

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SIL-01 EB-11 LAB-06 DRC-01 /135 W

----- 012472

R 021913Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6975

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, HO

SUBJECT: PEACEFUL MAY DAY

1. MAY DAY IN HONDURAS WAS CELEBRATED PEACEFULLY. PREVIOUS RUMORS OF COUP MENTIONED MAY 1 AS DATE IT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT. HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY DISTURBANCES.

2. TRADITIONAL MAY DAY LABOR DEMONSTRATIONS WERE HELD IN THE MAJOR CITIES. THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION WAS AT PUERTO CORTES WITH 4-5,000 PEOPLE WHILE THERE WERE SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE AT THE DEMONSTRATION IN TEGUCIGALPA. MOST OF THE SPEECHES AT THE TEGUCIGALPA AND PUERTO CORTES MEETINGS WERE MODERATE IN TONE. THERE WAS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN BUT IT WAS TEMPERED WITH A NOTICEABLE IMPATIENCE TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN MORE PROMPTLY.

3. NO GOVERNMENT LEADERS ATTENDED THE DEMONSTRATIONS. GENERAL LOPEZ SAID THAT HE WOULD ADDRESS THE NATION ON RADIO AND TELEVISION BECAUSE THERE WERE MEETINGS IN
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VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY RATHER THAN ONE LARGE

CONCENTRATION. IN THE ADDRESS HE STATED THAT THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN IS DESIGNED TO BRING ABOUT A BETTERMENT OF THE WORKERS AND THE COUNTRY. HE RECOGNIZED THAT SOME WERE IMPATIENT FOR GREATER PROGRESS BUT EMPHASIZED THE GOVERNMENT IS PUTTING THE PLAN AND ATTENDANT POLICIES INTO EFFECT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE CALLED ON ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY TO WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY. AND BETTER PRESENT LIVING CONDITIONS.

4. COMMENT: THE LABOR MOVEMENT AS A WHOLE HAS SHOWN ITS WILLINGNESS TO BACK THE GOVERNMENT IN CARRYING OUT THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN. HOWEVER, THIS SUPPORT IS CONDITIONED BY THE ACTIONS THE GOVERNMENT TAKES IN IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN. LACK OF GOVERNMENT PROGRESS WOULD BRING A CORRESPONDING LESSENING OF SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT BY LABOR.
SANCHEZ

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